

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 MCT-01 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
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INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
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AMEMBASSY GENEVA
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UNCLAS PRETORIA 0362

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SF, PINT, PINS, SHUM
SUBJECT: PAC TERRORISM TRIAL

REF : PRETORIA 0336

ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNT, JUSTICE D.J. CURLEWIS POSTPONED
HEARINGS IN THE BETHAL TERRORISM TRIAL UNTIL JANUARY 30.
DECISION WAS MADE ON JANUARY 18 AND AFFECTS SEVENTEEN OF
THE EIGHTEEN ACCUSED. THE OTHER ACCUSED, ALFRED NTSHALINTSHALI
OF SWAZILAND, IS APPARENTLY BEING REPRESENTED SEPARATELY
AND THE DECISION ON HIS POSTPONEMENT WILL BE MADE TODAY.
JANUARY 19. CURLEWIS, WHEN ANNOUNCING HIS DECISION, SAID
THAT THE POSTPONEMENT WAS NOT BEING GRANTED FOR ANY REASON
THAT " RELATED TO THE PROPER ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE."
CURLEWIS SAID HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE DEFENSE HAD
REFUSED TO PREPARE IN ORDER TO PRESENT THE COURT
WITH A FAIT ACCOMPLI WHEN ASKING FOR POSTPONEMENT. THE
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INDICTMENTS, HE SAID, WERE DETAILED AND CLEAR. IF WITNESSES WERE
NEEDED FROM SWAZILAND OR OTHER COUNTRIES, THEY COULD BE CALLED.
THERE WAS NO NEED TO TRAVEL TO OBTAIN STATEMENTS. IF FURTHER
INFORMATION ON THE PAN AFRICAN CONGRESS WAS NEEDED THEN " THE
ACCUSED CAN ENLIGHTEN HIS COUNSEL". CURLEWIS SAID IT IS "NOT
PERMISSIBLE TO PLAY FAST AND LOOSE WITH THE COURT", AND,
THEREFORE, A LENGTHY POSTPONEMENT COULD NOT BE GRANTED. BOWDLER

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